

true. Your life does flash in front of your eyes. I saw it."

Caldwell saw the hatch opening for the truck and climbed through as the calls of "I'm hit! I'm hit!" pierced the night and cut through the flames.

Caldwell didn't run for the safety of the roadside ditch. He didn't call for a doctor for himself. He pulled Torres to safety through the hatch. Then he dragged Torres about 20 meters from the truck so the explosions wouldn't kill him.

The munitions in the truck were blowing up in the fire. Bullets, shells, shrapnel designed to kill the enemy now trying to kill them.

"I could still hear screaming," Caldwell said.

PUTTING OTHERS' NEEDS FIRST

Again, Caldwell didn't run for safety.

"All I could see was Squires' hand," Caldwell said. "So I reached in, grabbed on, and pulled him out."

Squires was burning alive.

"It was like a stunt double in the movies," Caldwell said. "His whole legs were on fire. I rolled him around to try and put the fire out, but it didn't work. So I took off my vest and my shirt and tried to smother the fire."

Finally, the fire was out, but Squires' clothes were so hot Squires was still burning. Shirtless, bare-chested in a place where snipers are the law, Caldwell knelt in the road and pulled off Squires' clothes. Finally, he got Squires to the ditch.

Before the medics arrived, Caldwell poured what water he could find over Squires' wounds.

"I kept telling him he was going to be OK, that he was going to live," Caldwell said. "He was yelling. I was yelling. But I wasn't going to let him die. Both of them are really good soldiers. They would have done the same for me."

Torres suffered a broken arm and other injuries and is now back at Fort Bragg, N.C., where all three soldiers are based. Squires is in intensive care at the Brook Army Medical Center burn unit in San Antonio, Texas, hospital officials confirmed.

Caldwell suffered a concussion and has a dent in his forehead where an ammunition box thumped him. He has shrapnel in his leg. He has cuts and burns on his face and hands. His back is covered with an 18-inch burn.

STRONG SENSE OF HONOR, DUTY

He is a sergeant with responsibility for 14 men. He said his superiors have put in for a Purple Heart for his wounds in action and a Combat Action Badge, and either a Bronze Star or Silver Star for valor.

Caldwell could have come home, too. But he chose to stay in Iraq.

"My men here need me," Caldwell said by telephone this week.

Caldwell's wife and parents were distraught that he was injured, but they rejoice he is alive. Maybe even more, they take pride that Cedric Caldwell did what every man hopes he would do when an overturned truck is on fire with men underneath that truck.

Caldwell did not run. He didn't ask for help for himself. He helped his men.

"He went back," said the Rev. Willie Caldwell, the father. "I prepared myself when he left that my son could come back in a pine box. I supported this war then and now. I believe in freedom. It's not cheap. And then when he was at the hospital, he saw all those other guys who are hurt worse. He told me, 'Daddy, I need to stay. These guys need to come home, not me.'"

Caldwell's wife, Tiffani, is a military child whose parents are both immigrants from the Caribbean. Her father came from Jamaica to the Air Force. He served in the first Persian

Gulf War. Her mother came from Barbados to the Army.

Torres came from Mexico, Caldwell said.

Americans gnash their teeth over immigration, ask for fences to be built or borders to be shuttered, while the sons and daughters of immigrants or immigrants themselves fight the wars over freedom.

"CORN DOG": A LOCAL HERO

"My best friend is a hero," said Travis Canty, who has been "like a brother" with Caldwell since both were little kids in Rock Hill. It is Canty who spilled the beans that the nickname "Corn Dog" comes from Caldwell eating corn dogs for lunch during school.

"He didn't run. He didn't hide. He saved those guys," Canty said.

Caldwell went first to Kosovo when the war on terror began. He was home a short while, then spent almost a year in Afghanistan. A few months with his wife and then Iraq. Caldwell was home for a few days in January, just missing the birth of daughter Tiffani. He saw her, kissed her and his wife a few times, then went back to Iraq.

And then he cheats death. And still he stays in Iraq.

"I guess my military background prepared me for this," Tiffani Caldwell said. "I haven't cried yet. My husband is alive. He is a soldier. He'll come home when his deployment is finished."

RETURN TO A SIMPLER LIFE

Caldwell's enlistment is up in February. He said he's not staying in the Army.

"No way, no more Iraq," said Williatte, his mother.

"We are done," said Tiffani, his wife.

Caldwell plans to come back to Rock Hill with his wife and daughter. He'll play music in his father's Abiezer Baptist Church. He wants to be a Realtor.

"I truly believe that without God, me and Torres and Squires would not have survived," Caldwell said.

Caldwell may be right.

Maybe God wanted the black and the Hispanic and the white guys to live.

But one thing seems to be for sure.

A Rock Hill guy, Northwestern High class of 1998, who joined the National Guard while still in high school then leapt into active duty and never left, didn't leave his brothers to die in the dirt and flame and blood of Iraq.

Monday, on Memorial Day, no monuments will be etched with the names Torres or Squires on granite.

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO H. RES. 861—RESOLUTION ON THE WAR IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, despite the crafty language in this resolution, there is no connection between 9/11 and Saddam Hussein. The Global War on Terror and the War in Iraq are not synonymous.

The President has admitted this, yet the Republican Party in this House continues to support his failed policies in Iraq under the guise of fighting terror—consistently providing billions of off-budget funding, allowing waste, fraud and abuse to go unchecked and failing to exercise even the semblance of oversight. So, instead of debating solutions for Iraq

today, we are discussing a non-binding resolution that is equally as short-sighted and devoid of direction as President Bush's Iraq policy.

We all have unwavering pride for our troops. The quagmire that Iraq has become is not the fault of the troops who have performed superbly—it is the failure of the President to plan for a transition to peace.

That is why I support the Murtha resolution. It would provide a plan for peace, redeploy our troops and allow us to bring them home as soon as practicable.

Let's stop the carnage. Our presence in Iraq makes stability impossible. By remaining in Iraq, we make both Iraqi and American soil less secure. Let's bring our troops home.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Grace Community Church in Boulder City, Nevada, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

The Grace Community Church began as an inter-denominational Protestant religious church in April of 1932, and the first service was held on January 29, 1933. The church was officially dedicated on February 22, 1933, "to the glory of God and the Blessing of Man." The church quickly became a center for various community groups, and assumed a key role in the development of the community.

The Reverend Thomas Stevenson of California, who gave his first sermon in the unfinished basement of the church, was chosen as the church's first minister, and led the church's congregation until 1937. The Reverend Harold Eymann replaced Reverend Stevenson, and the formal by-laws for the congregation were adopted and the church was incorporated under state law during Reverend Eymann's ministry. Reverend Eymann left Grace Community Church in 1942, feeling he should serve as a military chaplain during World War II. Reverend Winston Trever from Azusa, California served from 1942–1949. The Reverend Olaf Stoeve ministered at Grace from 1949–1953. The Presbyterian Reverend Earl Seymour Fox (1953–1961) found the congregation growing and recommended that two services be held on Sunday and a building be added next to the American Legion Hall, which soon became Fox Hall.

Boulder City incorporated as a Nevada Municipality in 1960 and inherited all government land leases. The Reverend Guy Holliday (1961–1978) became the minister, and Grace Community Church entered a 50-year lease for the land under the church facility. The Reverend Melvin Pritts (1978–1982), from First Methodist Church of Phoenix, succeeded Reverend Holliday. The Reverend M. Kenneth Criswell (1982–1985) arrived from Ventura, California in time to give support and leadership to the committee working on the church's 50th anniversary. He found a debt-free church and a vital, caring congregation. The Reverend Dr. John J. Rousseau (1985–1990), who served three Methodist churches in Hawaii, arrived on July 1, 1985. The Reverend Dr. Richard Smith (1990–1999), was serving

Grace Community Church when the land was purchased from Boulder City in 1990. The Reverend Dr. Ronald S. Freel (1999–2004), who was worshipping with and volunteering as an Associate Pastor, became the Senior Pastor. Pastor Kevin Roach, the new senior pastor, preached his first sermon on July 18, 2004, and continues to serve today. Serving under the direction of Senior Pastor Kevin Roach are: Associate Pastor Gard Jameson, Music Director Carol Simak, Assistant Music Director Barbara Walker, and Sharon Wieczorek, who served as the Office Manager for the past 7 years is retiring, and is being replaced by Jan Liebhauser.

The church recently recognized 14 people who have been members for 48 years or longer, and four who have been members for more than 60 years. Carol Bourne, Jack and Dorothy Rants, Lin Diebold, Roy and Elnor Gear, Byron Miller, Robert Austin, Del and Eloise Blue, Agnes Lockette, Lillian Rigney, and Bob and Virginia Moore have all been members for 48 years or longer, and at the age of 94, Mary Eaton has been a member for 72 years, Violet Tracht at 96, has been a member for 63 years, with Velma Stice a member for 65 years and Innis Risley being at the 60 year mark.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Grace Community Church and its accomplishments in Nevada's history. I commend the church for its long history of service to the city of Boulder City and wish them good fortune for the next 75 years.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER SMITH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Christopher Smith, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York, educational and civic communities. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Mr. Smith considers that the very nature of education dictates that it takes place all the time, anytime and anywhere. As an educator in the New York City Public School System, Mr. Smith employs the concept of "teachable moments" in and out of the classroom. Mr. Smith posits that teachable moments are times in the life of an individual where one consciously learns from trial and error. He believes that learning through this method allows students cognition to develop critically and to balance multitudinous tasks tossed at them by life.

The village it takes to raise a child is evident at Boys and Girls High School. Mr. Smith provides students and staff with many opportunities to learn how to develop, implement and evaluate programs and extracurricular activities. This includes the development of the Exemplary Mentoring Program, after-school tutoring, the Annual Scholarship Luncheon, the Annual Talent Show, the development of Black & Latino Awareness programs, the Academic Bowl, Pep rallies, Student Government, and other activities to increase school spirit. It is

important to Mr. Smith that the legacy of this great institution continues.

Born and raised in Bedford Stuyvesant (Gates Avenue), Christopher Smith is a product of the New York City Public Schools system. After graduating from Boys and Girls High School in 1996, he received his Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Administration at the State University of New York at Oswego, and received his Master's Degree in General Education and Special Education from Touro College in New York City. This summer, Mr. Smith is embarking on a path in his pursuit of obtaining an Educational Administration Master's Degree at the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York. When he successfully completes his Educational Administration Degree, he looks to earn his Educational Doctorate.

Mr. Smith works hard to keep the Boys and Girls High School legacy alive in the Bedford Stuyvesant community. He knows that his children are definitely the "Jewels of Bedford Stuyvesant". Although this task is not easy, God has equipped him with valor to complete this stringent journey and he works according to the following mantra: "It doesn't matter where my children come from but where I hope to help them get to."

Mr. Smith further states that when we derive pleasure from our daily lives, are stimulated or challenged by our work, enriched by the new things we learn, and by our contact with others; our lives are successful regardless of the specific setbacks of a particular day. When it is all said and done, and he recalls the day's events; he is satisfied in knowing that he was able to help his community.

Mr. Speaker, Christopher Smith's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5576) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of restored funding for Section 8 vouchers. Our Nation is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis—and hard working families are bearing the brunt of the short fall. Yet again Section 8 is funded below the President's request—this year \$144 million less than proposed.

The Nadler-Velázquez amendment will restore \$70 million for Section 8, providing vouchers for approximately 10,000 families. This increase will ensure that families working to create a better life for their children will

have a safe, decent place to call home—something that is critical to positive outcomes for the future.

The Section 8 program is a lifeline for millions of families struggling to make ends meet and end the cycle of poverty so common in low-income communities. In my district—and districts around the country—families have been waiting upwards of ten years for vouchers. We cannot turn our backs on families striving to achieve more for their children against the odds.

HONORING GENE & MARY MCCARTHY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a tremendous sense of pleasure to recognize the personal accomplishments and the long career of two of Western New York's finest citizens, a couple I am proud to call my friends Mary Doris and William Eugene "Gene" McCarthy.

Mary and Gene McCarthy are lifelong—and tremendously proud—residents, of the Old First Ward in South Buffalo, New York. Mary grew up on Sidway Street and Gene grew up a few streets away on Kentucky Street.

Mary and Gene were married on May 7, 1955 and resided on Hamburg Street before moving to 271 Katherine Street where they live today. They raised their three children, Patty, Billy and Maureen in this home in the Old First Ward Neighborhood.

This neighborhood holds great significance in my Congressional District because it has long been recognized for the Irish legacy instilled upon the area during the city's formative years. Irish immigrants who worked on the construction of the Erie Canal made their home here. They went on to work in the shipping industry, as scoopers, railroad operators, and factory workers to name a few.

Gene McCarthy followed in this tradition working for several years in Buffalo's grain mills, ending his industry career at Pillsbury Flour Mill to pursue a business venture of his own.

Gene and Mary opened the doors to McCarthy's Tavern on July 20, 1964 at 73 Hamburg Street. McCarthy's Tavern, a classic neighborhood Irish Pub that has become a First Ward Landmark and a favorite spot for grain workers, firefighters, police officers, politicians, lawyers and First Ward regulars alike.

Hard work, long hours, true friendships and constant generosity were the hallmarks of Gene and Mary McCarthy's life in the Tavern Business.

Mr. Speaker, It is my distinct honor to recognize Gene and Mary McCarthy on the occasion of their well deserved retirement from the tavern business after 42 years of service. The wonderful memories, stories, and good times shared by those who routinely came in for the welcoming atmosphere that McCarthy's Tavern offered will be present in the minds and hearts of many Western New Yorkers for years to come.